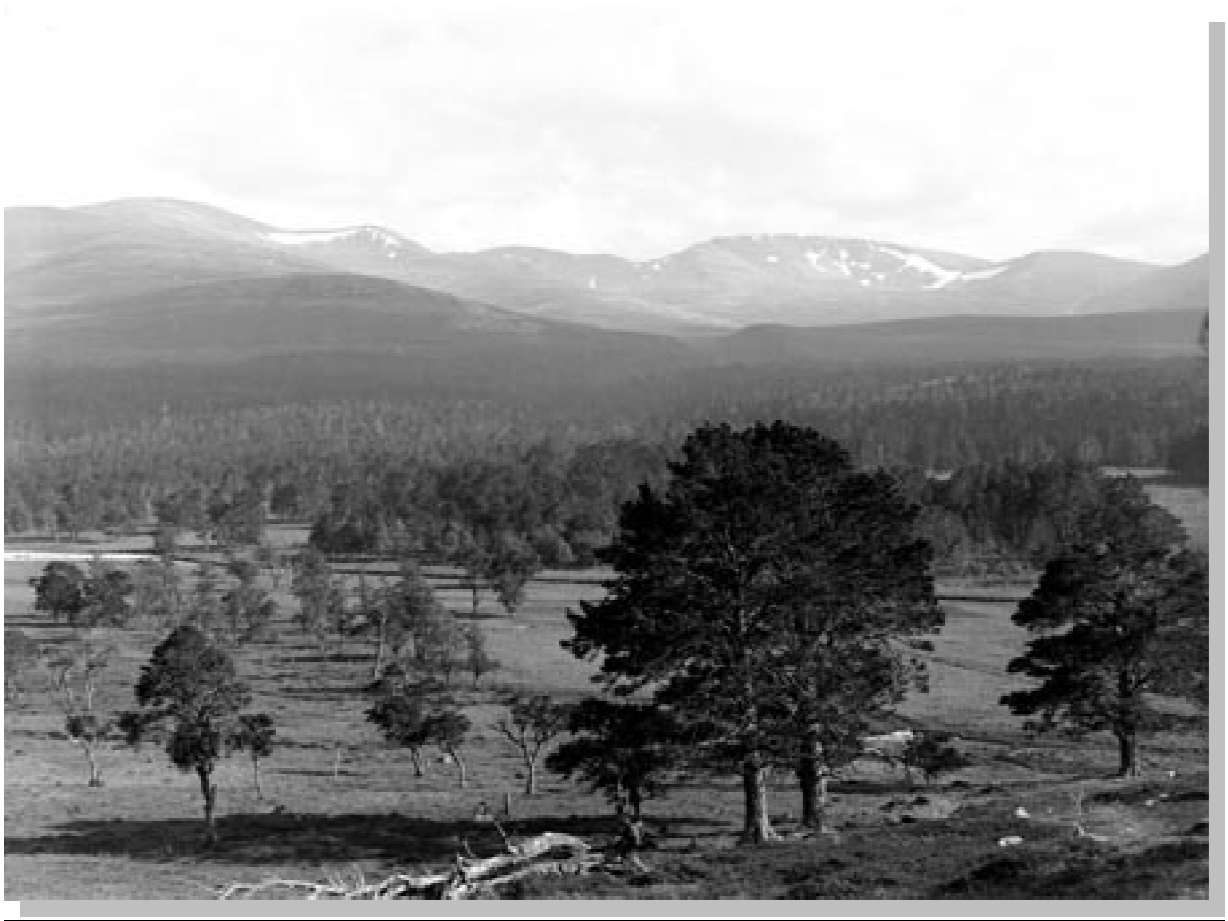
Glenmore Forest 1923 to ???

Under Public Ownership

A Collection of Yearly Events



1923

Negotiations have been proceeding for some weeks between the Forestry Commission and the Duke of Gordon. The Forestry Commission aims to utilise Glenmore as a nursery and for this purpose it is admirably adapted. Glenmore has about 3000 acres of plantable land. (20/9/23 Aberdeen Journal)

The Forestry Commission bought 12,500 acres of Glenmore from the Duke of Richmond and Gordon due to in the main death duties: these where amongst the first to come under Forestry Commission (FC) ownership. One of the obligations of the sale was the looking after the sheep stock and the sporting value was stated as 5% of the purchase price (£900). Also in the title deeds was the right of use to use the sluice at Loch Morlich to float timber. The area of standing trees left by the Canadian Forestry Corps amounted to 80 acres. Officially purchased on the 12th of November.

After intensive inquiry and negotiation with both the Duke of Richmond and the Forestry Commission it was freely admitted that the Sluggan road was a public right of way for pedestrian and horse vehicular traffic and the public entitled to use it. (Scotsman)

There is an ongoing dispute over a locked gate at Glenmore. There are a lot of visitors and cars going to the Lodge in cars and picnicking and bathing in front of the Lodge with little respect in some cases for decency. (20/12/23 Aberdeen Journal)

Between 1923-47 Glenmore Forest was operated as both a sporting and a forestry estate. The centre for the forestry operations was the Badaguish area. John Macdonald was engaged as the gamekeeper and lived in the keeper's house beside Glenmore Lodge. The estate was fenced against red deer. (FC records)

Cairngorm Club Journal states that there were no other Forestry Commission owned forest that was "*so rich and full of promise*" as Glenmore. (Cairngorm Club Journal)

1924

First FC planting of some 200 acres planted around the Badaguish area. Species include Scots Pine, Norway Spruce, Sitka Spruce, Douglas Fir, Japanese Larch and European Larch.

Main planting years where 1924-34 when some 1,300 acres planted, 1951-56, 1960-67 and finally 1972-3. Planting stock came from the Black Isle and Dornoch nurseries. (FC Records)

1925

Forestry Commission to enclose 1000 acres of deer forest, but the area will be afforested during the next 10 years and will average no more than 150 acres a year. They don't mean to sell anymore timber but to conserve it. (Aberdeen Press and Journal 2/7/25)

1926

In Ardgarten and in Glenmore five steel houses of the Weir type have been erected (cost £575 each). They are considerably cheaper than the wooden houses of the Swedish type. "They have given thorough satisfaction to the tenants who have been in occupation

last winter. There are two houses still standing at the Badaguish outdoor centre. (Scotsman 7/9/26)

1928

John Macdonald appointed as Head keeper a post he held until 1947. During this period Glenmore was run as both a sporting and a plantation forest. Renting for the shooting was done via Headquarters in Edinburgh (FC records)

The Deer Forest of Glenmore to let for the season 25-30 stags and some grouse. Apply Forestry Commission 25 Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh. (Scotsman Advert)

1930

Forest Research (Queens 14) established an experimental reserve in which trials were established looking at the influence of cultivation on recruitment of natural regeneration within a native pine stand. Dr M.L. Anderson drew up the experiment plan. Eight types of disturbance were compared ranging from simple vegetation manipulation to localized intense ground cultivation (Henman, 1961). Prior to Forest Research involvement, Glenmore had been subject to a series of selective fellings, and grazing by sheep and deer, which had left a stand of relatively widely spaced mature trees. From 1930 onwards, the area was fenced against browsing animals, and allowed to develop without further intervention. The fence was removed in 1982. Assessments have been carried out at intervals since establishment, particularly monitoring the recruitment of seedlings and saplings within the plot. The most recent assessments were completed in 2000. (Forest Research)

Natural regeneration of Scots Pine (Pinus sylvestris) was tried on the Northwest side of Loch Morlich. This was deemed a failure- too slow growing and too sparse, so faster growing species such as Sitka Spruce (Picea sitchensis), Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) and European Larch (Larix decidua) were planted. Around 300 has of this Scots Pine experiment still remain which was planted between 1924 and 1933. (FC Records)

Annual bag of red deer was 65 in the Queens Forest (Watson Mammals in N.E. Highland)

Approx 300 Red deer mostly stags wintered at Badaguish where they were fed hay. Feeding stopped during 2nd World War. The gamekeeper John MacDonald stayed at the lodge and kept four cows and 20 sheep in what is now the campsite area. Using two horses they also grow oats and turnips. At busy times of the year a under keeper and ghillies plus other helpers were required for the muirburn. In 1947 stock rose to 10 cows, a bull and 120 sheep summering mostly on the Kincardine hills (Mrs Macdonald) (A Watson)

Lady Evelyn Mar has rented the Glenmore deer forest for the season (9/8/30 Western Morning News)

Johnnie Macdonald recalls seeing trees marked with the stamp of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon burnt into the trees (Touchwood History)

1931

Forestry Commissioners stated that they would be prepared in principle to agree to the use of the unplantable land as a National Park provided that regulations protecting the plantations from fire, trespass and damage were in place.

Report also states 1465 acres on the lower slopes have been afforested and must be absolutely reserved from public use until such time as the Forestry Commission deem it right to open for visitors The existing rights of way would give the public sufficient access to the hinterland. About 250 acres of native Scots Pine near Loch Morlich until enclosed might be open to the public and possibly an area of 100 acres for camping could be set aside next to Loch Morlich. At present the Lodge is let to shootings. If the forest was to become a National Park, the Lodge could be used as an hotel, and it might be necessary to provide a hostel at some point. Loch Morlich has attractions for fishing and the right to fish is also shared with Rothiemurchas Estate. At present the access road through the Sluggan is maintained by the Commission. (FC records Scotsman 2/5/31))

1932

In letter to the Scotsman a motor permit to utilise the Sluggan Pass on two/three occasions has been cancelled due to the concerns of the shooting tenant and not as stated that the maintenance of the road was a burden to the Forestry Commission. It is also noted that many other visitors are to be found around Loch Morlich whether permitted or not and the Sluggan Pass recognised as a long drive into the Glenmore (20/8/32 Scotsman)

Another letter indicates that there is public road from Coylum bridge to the sluices at Loch Morlich it is very rough for the last mile and half but not impassable (27/8/32 Scotsman letters)

Abernethy Parish Council protested against the closing off the Sluggan Pass by the Forestry Commission as the road had been used since time immemorial by the inhabitants of Glenmore for going to kirk and the mart and for driving cattle and sheep. (Letter dated 26/8/32 in the Scotsman)

1934

Forestry Commission to date have planted 1300 acres under new trees with faster growing non-native species chosen before Scots pine. (FC records)

1935

There was a worker's bothy in the Sluggan with three forest workers Jack Dempster, Davie Macrae, and Donald Mackenzie they paid a schilling a week and no cook provided. (Touchwood History)

The Forestry Commissioners have received permission to bestow the name Queens Forest on Glenmore a commemorative stone will be erected. (16/10/35 Yorkshire Post)

The first phase of planting in Glenmore ended. (FC Records)

1936

To commemorate the Jubilee of the late King George and Queen Mary the forest of Glenmore in the Cairngorms is now to be called the Queens Forest The stone monument was originally in the Sluggan Pass but it is now next to the ski road. (Glasgow Herald).

After a proposal to safeguard the remnants of the old native forest by The National Trust of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Forestry Society the Forestry Commission moved to parcel up areas of old forest to be retained in their original state and one of these areas will be within the Queens Forest (Glenmore) These remnants will be protected from game and domestic animals (nts, rsfs,fileC310/12/36).

1937

Ian Fraser son of Jackey (Forester) recalls large piles of wartime leftovers of sawlog backs left from World War I. Jackey Fraser moved to Badaguish as Head Forester until 1954, he then stayed onto manage the campsite. (Touchwood History)

1938

Aberdeen University were presented with a giant log of wood illustrative of the timber formerly grown in the ancient forest of Glenmore which has lain in Gordon Castle for more than 130 years. The trees were cut in the forest by William Osborne in the 19thC. It still has the same brass plaque as first presented in 1806 (20/8/38 Press &Journal**)**

1941

Huts were built near the visitor centre car park for the Norwegian Commando's (Kompani Linge) when they were based in Glenmore for commando training.

In November the same year the Company moved to the Scottish Highlands to be quartered in 3 buildings some kilometres away from each other, not far from Aviemore Junction in Inverness-shire. They were Drumintoul Lodge, Glenmore Lodge and Forest Lodge, and was called STS 26. From the Autumn of 1944 about 100 officers and sergeants from other Norwegian units were trained at STS 26. In 1943 and 1944 the HM King Haakon VII and HRH Crown Prince Olav inspected Company Linge several times. (Kompani Linge records)

Allegedly cars were blown up on the beach at Loch Morlich and glass fragments were to be found mixed in the sand. (A Glen Cairngorm Gateway)

1942

Major fire ripped through the south side of Loch Morlich approx. 200 acres (FC records)

1944

The battleship Loch Morlich was launched saw active duty with the Canadian Navy. Interesting to think that there may have been a connection to the Canadians in Glenmore in WW1. After the war sold to New Zealand navy and renamed Tutira. (NLS collection)

1945-47

Some 200 acres of felling was undertaken during this period. The majority of the 2,200 acres planted by the Forestry Commission was too young therefore you would assume that the old pinewoods bore the brunt. (Fraser 1956)

Start of second phase of planting within Glenmore. (FC Records)

Aeneas Cameron and Louie Robertson Forest Workers at Glenmore both returned to work after the war. (Touchwood History)

1946

Total forest acreage 12,500 of which 2,464 planted was planted and 2,174 acres were deemed plantable the other 7,900 acres included agricultural, hill and loch land **(**FC records**)**

Oats still being grown below the Lodge in Glenmore **(**Perry**)**

1946

FC announced plans for establishment of Glenmore as a Forest Park. Glenmore Lodge would be required for FC personnel, but three acres nearby set aside for a campsite. (Cairngorm Club Journal 46-47**)**

Large hut that was built for Norwegian Commandos during the war to be rented from the FC by Elgin Academy has four dormitories, common room, cook house includes four spray baths. It was to rent for £4 per month for 16 months (Press and Journal)

Elgin Academy School uses Norwegian huts for school trips until 1970. (FC records)

1947

Delay to building of camping park due to shortage of cement and pipes. Forest roads are at present being made by specially trained ex-servicemen. (24/8/47 Sunday Post)

FC took over the Norwegian Hut to house roadman working in the woods. After they left Elgin could have the hut again for £5 a week or £2.10s a weekend (Grantown Grammar School magazine)

1948

Glenmore was designated as a Forest Park also the campsite was opened. Of the 12,500 acres some 8500 acres was deemed to be implantable. The Forest Park was opened by Mr HC Beresford Pierse (Aberdeen Journal)

Camping site laid out as Glenmore becomes a Forest Park (9/6/48 Aberdeen Journal)

Camping nights recorded as 2,588 (FC Annual report 1948)

South deer fence at upper plantation complete by spring, except for 280m gap at the Allt Mhor this was finally closed the next year. Repair by FC staff on the west march after break in of deer. (FC records)

Deer cull 10-12 animals (A Watson)

Secretary of State Mr Woodburn opens Glenmore Lodge operated by The Central Council of Physical Recreation. He also toured the forest with Mr James Fraser Conservator for North Scotland. Chief species being planted are Scots Pine, Norway Spruce, Sitka Spruce. Mr Woodburn also saw remnants of the old pine that are being preserved. (Scotsman 7/9/48)

1949

Glenmore National Forest Park first edition visitor guide written by J Walton. (FC Records)

Four Swedish timber houses constructed for Forest Workers in Glenmore (FC Records)

1950

Extensive areas cut during the recent war and felling continues in some places. Also, at Loch Morlich the remains of the sluice gates used in the timber floating days may be seen. (SMC Cairngorm 3rd edition 1950)

The big pines of Glenmore are in the news again. The Forestry Commission has had to suspend the clearing of 20 acres of the 200-year-old trees near Glenmore Lodge because of local objections. It would have amounted to 40,000 cubic feet including some of the finest trees in the district (Scotsman 9/4/50)

FC stock data shows that 18 ha of relatively dense native woodland (greater than 50 trees per hectare) were underplanted with exotics prior to 1950. Larger areas of native pine at lower densities were also underplanted in this period but figures for this are not so easily determined. (1987 Pinewood Review C Bain)

There were 15,714 overnight stays recorded at the camping ground it was noted that the Glen was becoming a centre for mountaineering and winter sports. (FC Records)

The forest is 12,500 acres in extent with some 2,236 acres under plantations a further 1063 acres are left to be planted and 9201 are deemed unplantable (FC annual report)

Planting records destroyed by fire, so the provenance of the planted pine was not local. It is thought to be either Northern Germany or Northeast Scotland. (FC Records)

1951

Glenmore overnight stays 19,200 (FC records)

1952

Glenmore Lodge opened as a Youth Hostel. (FC records)

1953

A fenced area (fenced 30 years before by FC) of around 70 acres adjacent to Moormore was put aside for reindeer to study if they would cause damage to trees. Mr Utsi fenced off the eastern boundary as the Sluggan Road ran past. John Fraser and his assistant David Roberson were the foresters in Queens Forest. The FC had 12 members of staff including the trapper Hamish Reid. This must have been a success as 1544 acres of Airgoid Meall (silver mount) was leased to the reindeer company. This was further extended to 5900 acres of open hill. (Reindeer Council Annual Reports 1949-1955)

1954

District Council agreed that a vehicle track plus a chalet could go ahead connecting Glenmore to the upper slopes as skiing became to take off and up to now skiers had to walk 4 miles. This land was owned by the Forestry Commission. (A Glen Cairngorm Gateway)

1955

Forest Workers bothy moved to Glenmore Lodge a wooden building was tacked onto the end of the Lodge and there was no mains electricity. It closed in the early 1960's (Touchwood History)

Glenmore Lodge is rented from the Forestry Commission by the Scottish Education Department for outdoor pursuits. The lodge is also used as an official weather station for the Meteorological Office (Journal of FC No.24)

Reindeer Company renewed fencing around Silver Mount due to the weight of winter snowdrifts. (Reindeer Council Annual Reports 1949-1955)

To date the reindeer had spent 270 days within the Queens Forest. David Robertson Forester in Queens Forest "The reindeers did no damage to the forest trees, so far as it is known, but they do like to eat the leaves of freshly flushed birch" (The Slasher No. 85 January 1955)

1956

Recreation facilities highlighted in Glenmore included:

Camping ground, the costs are for a tent 1s per night, 5s per week. Car and caravan 2s per night, or 12s per week.

Norwegian huts for Youth Organisations (around 40 could be accommodated) £2 per weekend, £2,10s per week.

Parking grounds East end Loch Morlich and at the foot of the main Cairngorm path. Car parking 3d per day. (FC Records)

1957

Estimated total native pinewood area is 261ha of which 46 ha is deemed to be pure and 215 ha is scattered. (FC records)

1959

Professor Henry Steven and Jock Carlisle published an inventory of Caledonian Pinewoods and they categorised Glenmore as containing Scots Pine of native origins. The planted pine had mostly originated from seed collected from elsewhere though some cones had been collected from Glenmore Pine trees. They describe the age structure as pines being usually over 140 years old the maximum age determined by borings as 240. The tallest trees do not exceed 19.5m and these few. But before the extensive feeling in the 1914-18 war trees up to 21ms were not uncommon on both sides of the Loch. Today the average height is between 13.5m to 15.0m. As a result of extensive fellings and damage by fire during the last 40 years there are only scattered old pines standing amongst planted trees over most of the forest except for a few well stocked groups south and south-west of Loch Morlich particularly at the upper margin of the woodlands. The existing old trees date from felling's made over 150 years ago. The evidence of the existing age structure suggests that there was relatively little natural regeneration after the middle of the last century, due perhaps either to grazing first by sheep then deer, or to the then well stocked condition of the forest. The problem of little regeneration has been investigated and methods of soil cultivation and burning has been tried especially when there was a good cone crop. A measure of success was attained, but mortality was high due to frost lift and damage by During the visit by Steven and Carlisle insects, black grouse and capercailzie and the problem is still unsolved They conclude that some 65 hectares can be described as pure Scots Pine forest, (Macdonald 1952) (Steven and Carlisle The Native Pinewoods of Scotland)

A lease for 25 years for a building 105ft x 75ft for rent of £5 a year offered to reindeer company it was signed in 1960 (Hoofprints E Singleton)

1960

A major fire started by a cigarette set fire to Glenmore and Rothiemurchas with around 1300 acres of forest burnt. Of that around 314 acres burnt within the Queens Forest the rest being in Rothiemurchas Estate. Nearly 200 volunteers from Aviemore and neighbouring villages helped put the blaze out. Fire crews from Inverness Dingwall and Fort William were in attendance. Fire began beside ski road near the entrance to the forest and spread rapidly heading to the Sluggan Pass. After a prolonged drought the vegetation and hill streams where dry and water had to be pumped from the river Luineag. Rain on the 6th of June finally put the fire out. (RSFS news140315)

The fire on the 3rd of June burnt about 300 acres of Forestry Commission plantations and a further 700 acres of privately owned woodland and moorland. The cost of replacing the Commission plantations will be about £40,000. (House of Commons Hansard Vol 627 19/7/60)

A new single track road to the upper ski slopes constructed. (A. Glen Cairngorm Gateway)

1964

Visitor Survey undertaken 407 interviewed in August. Scenic driving and walking main reasons for visiting. No foreign visitors interviewed. (HMSO Public Recreation in National Forests)

1965

Bridge built for access to reindeer herd across the Allt Mhor burn (Hoof prints Emily Singleton)

1966/67

Ski road converted to two lane highway (FC records)

Plans submitted for two bungalows to be built behind reindeer centre (FC records)

1968

Glenmore Lodge now a Youth Hostel. 15 men employed by Forestry Commission. (FC Records)

1969

Total forest area 12474 acres of which 3617 under plantation and 327 acres to be planted leaving 8530 as deemed unplantable. (FC records annual accounts)

Plantation of six acres of Norway Spruce (Cpt 65) planted for 50 years Jubilee of formation of Forestry Commission. (FC records)

1970

Booking fee for old wooden Norwegian hut in Glenmore was £10 per week (Elgin Academy records)

A hostel was built called the Norwegian Lodge located on road to Glenmore Lodge to cater for youth organisations and had accommodation for up to 40. Hut was later sold to the MOD in 1984.

FC sold site for mast in the Sluggan area (FC records)

Four thousand acres of Glenmore Forest were in danger of destruction by fire. This is the second large fire in the Strathspey area within twelve months. (Glasgow Herald)

High elevation planting experiments (Queens 17/18) created on the slopes of Cairngorm at a height of between 610-655 metres asl and is 3.5 ha in size. (Forest Research)

1971

2,422 has in the Forest Park including the main ski slopes were sold to the Highlands and Islands Development Board. This area included some scattered pine and some stands of more dense pine on Airgiod-meall, the timber value of which was reserved by the FC. (FC records)

New information centre opened at Glenmore with a forest exhibition area. (FC records)

Pollen samples from the sediment within Loch Morlich indicate that the main tree pollen type was Pine, conforming local traditions that Loch Morlich lay within the area of ancient Caledonian forest. 4000BC. Pine, Birch, Alder, Juniper, Grass, Fern pollens recovered. (R G H Brown, P E O'Sullivan Facility of Humanities Polytechnic Wolverhampton)

Resurvey of Native Woodlands based on Steven and Carlisle original list gave Glenmore 160 acre (65ha) and 50 acre(20ha) mixed Pine/Birch/scattered. (NCC & Institute for Terrestrial Ecology)

1972

Acquisition of 25ha of land from Pityoulish estate west Sluggan. (FC records)

Orienteering map drawn (ESOC)

1973

Total FC afforestation of Glenmore was around 1670 has. Final plantings took place at Creag Mheadhonach, Sluggan. In all some 1400 hectares were planted from 1924 representing around 90% of the total afforested area.

There was an unveiling of memorial stone to the Norwegians Commandos (Kompani Lingie) who had trained in Glenmore Forest in the Second World War. (Kompani Linge folder VC)

Charlie Ferguson was the ranger, squad was Ricky O'Donnel, Neil Hamilton, Sandy Ferguson (Charlie's Brother) Mairi Collier was the clerkess. Camp Wardens were Aeneas Cameron and Louis Robertson. They also looked after the Norwegian Hostel. Foresters house name changed from "Kuching" to " Craigowrie".(Bryce Reynard)

1974

Bathymetric Survey of Loch Morlich undertaken by West Park Secondary School South Shields which described the loch as relatively shallow at 10ms although there is a deeper section closer to the Forest Park campsite of up to 12ms (West Park Secondary School South Shields)

1975

Current annual yield of thinnings is 1000 cubic metres. The main market for the timber is the pulp and paper mill at Fort William.

Resource centre next to the Forest Office and Information Centre is open to visitors and a wet weather shelter. Adjoining this room there is as a room used by the Church of Scotland. Services are held on Sunday evenings throughout the year. (FC records)

Seed trapping carried out on the old forest gave a count of 653,000 seeds per acre. Of that only 0.1% survived, 76% falling within a chain of the old crop. (1975 Institute of Terrestrial ecology Native pinewoods)

Printing off 5th edition of Glenmore Forest Park Guidebook edited by D A Woodburn (HMSO)

1976

Establishment of a 121ha Native Woodland Reserve at Ryvoan which was leased to the Scottish Wildlife Trust for 20 years. (Gibbons 1995)

1977

A refurbished visitor centre at Glenmore re-opens. (FC records)

1978

The area of forest that was completely fenced was 1718 has.(FC records)

Old growth native woodland was surveyed to be 167 hectares (Mowle1978)

Cairngorm bridge washed away 5/8/78 (FC records)

1979

50 apprentices from HMS Caledonia Roysth build a new bridge over the Allt Mhor River. (Hoofprints E Singleton)

1980

Further research plots (Queens 18) established in high elevation plot. (FR records)

Loch Morlich counted as amongst the most highly developed recreation lochs in Scotland with peak numbers of 1600 people on the shore and over 100 boats in the loch especially on a hot sunny day. (Tivy1980)

1981

Thinning's in the forest amounted to some 35,000 cubic feet. (FC records)

Plaque put on the Queens stone to acknowledge the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer there was also Scots pine trees planted in a nearby enclosure (On Queens stone)

Queens forest was 2644 hectares in total comprising 1535 ha in plantation and 1109ha classed as other. (FC records)

1982

Fire on South side of Glenmore about two hectares of forest burnt. (FC records)

Queens Forest Amalgamated with Inshriach Forest admin staff moved to Inshriach office Liz Grant was clerkess. Office in Glenmore was in what is now the café area. Squad consisted of five coming from Aviemore and four living in Glenmore within the summer four students. (A MacLeod Head Forester)

1983

Area at Badaguish sold to Speyside Handicapped Holiday trust 3.08 ha. (FC records)

1984

First sled dog rally held in Glenmore and is still going on in January every year. (FC Records)

1986

A refurbished visitor centre which attracts between 40 to 50 000 visitors per year was opened comprising display area, audio visual auditorium and forest shop.

Alan MacDougall and Alastair Dow were the camp Wardens (FC records)

1987

Plans drawn up for new Visitor Centre and car park near the Allt Mhor which did not proceed (FC Records**)**

Total area of native pine 172 ha of which 75 has is of dense/intermediate and 97 ha classed as scattered. Habitat loss of pinewood since the 1957 review by Steven and Carlisle is 94 has due to in the main under planting by exotic conifer species. FC policy aims to prevent the further decline of existing native pine areas and to extend these by natural regeneration and identified a sup to 130 has. (Native Pine wood review 1957-1987 C Bain) An alternative plan suggested by conservation bodies is that Glenmore should not contain any exotic species (R Dennis RSPB pers comm)

1988

Glenmore forest aerial photography taken in colour 1:10,000 usually a pre courser to re mapping of the forest. (FC records)

New permanent exhibition created in Visitor Centre dedicated to Kompani Linge (FLS Records)

1989

Allt Mhor a Site of Scientific Interest for Geological and Geomorphology notified features was declared amounting to some 41 has. (FC/SNH records)

Reindeer Paddocks opened behind reindeer house (Hoofprints E Singleton)

1990

Plans are in place to extend the area of the Caledonian pinewoods to more than a third of the Forest Park area and there will also be a £60,000 redevelopment of the visitor centre. Glenmore is still a working forest and produces around 4,500 tonnes of timber each year (FC PR Release 22/10/90)

Rio summit stressed the importance of preserving and sustaining the world's indigenous forests. This summit energised the Forestry Commission into planning a programme to remove non-natives from the South Side of Loch Morlich

1000ms of fence repaired or replaced around the reindeer Silvermount enclosure a helicopter was deployed to take in fence materials (Hoofprints E Singleton)

1991

A small visitor centre was opened in a stone building that was originally constructed as a coach house for the Glenmore shooting lodge. It is open for 46 weeks a year and attracts some 40 to 50k visitors. Liz Grant info assistant and shop manager retired in 2001. (A MacLeod Head Forester)

The campsite has 220 pitches is also open for 46 weeks a year. (FC Records)

Other recreation facilities include 50km of waymarked trails, 30km of ski trails, plus 2 nursery slopes with ski tows and a permanent orienteering course. (FC records)

Glenmore Forest Park leaflet reprinted. (FC records)

First felling of non-native trees was of Sitka spruce to the southeast of Ryvoan Pass (FC records)

1992

Forest Enterprise embarked on a major conservation project to restore and expand significant areas of native Pinewoods. Some 750 has of the Forest Park has been designated as a Caledonian Forest Reserve. The first Reserve to be announced in Scotland. Non-natives trees were removed by FC harvesting team using whole tree working with extraction by skidder and processed at roadside. Eventually more conventional short wood systems were used in the forthcoming years. (FC records)

Glenmore Forest Park won the John Kennedy Memorial Trophy in the Scottish Woods and Forest Awards for woodlands over 150 hectares category. (FC records)

Pine regeneration Forest Research plots established in 1926 Scots pine plantation in compts 3020/3028 (FE Records)

1993

First recreation ranger Jim Ghillies was employed in Glenmore Forest Park (FC records)

Native pinewoods in Glenmore were core sampled in three areas Coaochan a Ghuib (Cpt 3110) mean age ranges from 100 to 260 years, Bog Pine area (Cpt 3029) mean ages from 160 to 220 years and Research Area (Cpt 3031) mean ages from two distinct groups 60-80 years and 180-200 years. (FC Silviculture North 23/4/93)

1994

Estimated core pinewood area of 455 ha although this is very variable in extent from just single trees to 120 ha of relatively undisturbed pinewood in the pass of Ryvoan. Core samples indicate the age of the trees is from 40 to 305 years. The area cleared of non-native species is around 158 ha. (FE Pinewoods Hamilton 1994)

First design plan for the forest prepared which replaced former production forecast driven plans. This plan laid out the original proposal to restore the native woodland in Glenmore with rapid removal of non-natives to the south of Loch Morlich and a slower replacement to the North. (30/9/94 FC records)

A 40-year lease at Loch Morlich for the opportunity to conduct water sports from the Boathouse. (FC records)

Forest Park visitor survey interviewed 972 and 80% came by car with 85% on holiday. (FC records Statistics Branch May 94-Apr95)

1995

Forest design plan approved for Glenmore. Total area 2640ha of which 1613ha is woodland 730ha is open hill, 120ha is Loch Morlich and 177ha is unplanted and open space within the afforested area.

Some 160 ha of non-native woodland has been cleared from 1991 to 1994 in the Caledonian Forest Reserve area. (FE records)

Norwegian war veterans visit. (Kompani Linge folder VC)

1996

Glenmore SSSI established 1,441 hectares of woodland. (SNH)

Forest Experiment (Queens 14) established recording long term monitoring of non-intervention (Glenmore 1/19196 Forest Research)

Forest Experiment Queens 21a set up in the Suggan and 21b in Ryvoan and 21c at Glenmore Lodge looking at Biodiversity (Forest Research)

Glenmore Park Cycle and Ski trail leaflet printed (FC records May)

1997

Scottish Wildlife Trust lease at Ryvoan expires and reserve absorbed back into forest (FC records)

Glenmore forest aerial photography taken in black and white 1:10,000 usually a pre courser to re mapping of the forest. (FC records)

New visitor centre extension was completed in 10 months and was opened in May it was part funded by the Bank of Scotland, BSW timber, SNH, European Regional Development Fund and Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise. Designed by Law and Dunbar Nasmith and constructed by Mc Greogor Construction Ltd (FE records)

Visitor centre wins an award from the Association for the protection of Rural Scotland (FE records)

Glenmore Forest Park Guide leaflet reprinted. (FC records May)

Recreation survey undertaken in the forest park. (FC records)

1998

Glenmore Newspaper (FC Times) launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Forest Park (24/6/98 Press @Journal)

Core samples were taken at the 1930 Scots Pine experiment site (Queens 10/30) The majority of cored trees are between 35-100 years. Parent trees are relatively young with the oldest only 223 years old. Looking at the distribution of ages suggests limited sporadic recruitment of individual trees over a period 1820s-1930s after an earlier period of recruitment in the late 1700s-1800s. (Forest Research)

Recreation survey by Scottish National Heritage suggested that 375k visitors came to the park and over 90% by car (SNH)

1999

901 Ha of hill ground was re-acquired from the Highlands and Islands Development Board to allow native woodland to re-generate from the existing forest to recreate a natural tree line and montane scrub layer.

Removal, of 12.8km of fencing within the Forest Park to aid Capercaillie conservation. (FC records)

Completion of major restoration fellings on the south side of Loch Morlich. (FC records)

2000

Glenmore Camp shop was sold to Mr B Wilson (FC records)

Scottish Natural Heritage have plans to extend the Special Protection Area to include 1420 has of Glenmore Forest. (Glasgow Herald)

Scottish Forestry Alliance Project to enhance the 100ha of recently restored Pinewoods and with regeneration enlarge the Pinewood area by another 150 ha. This would be a substantial contribution to the UK Native Pinewood Diversity Action Plan. Also, as part of the plan create a new path from the Allt Mhor Car park to Coire nan ciste. (FC Records)

High elevation plot thinned (FC records)

Environmental Impact Assessment of natural regeneration on hill ground undertaken. (FC records)

Deer population estimated to be 30 deer per 100ha (FC records)

2001

Archaeological survey of Glenmore Forest undertaken. (S Farrell March 2002)

Scottish Forest Alliance in agreement with BP is funding non-native removal.

Lochside trail upgraded with financial assistance from Highland Access Panel to become more suitable for all abilities, (FC records)

Memorial built outside Visitor centre by Jim Ghillies recreation manager to hold a bronze Plaque commemorating Elgin Academy teachers Dr James Bain and Bill Gillian who brought so may children to the cairngorms between 1946-1970 (Northern Scot)

With no fencing in Glenmore deer culling was stepped up with 97 Roe deer and 163 Red deer culled. Deer density 34 per 100ha. (FC records)

2002

Regeneration Research Plots of six hectares established in the 1926 Scots Pine area near Badaguish looking at thinning in a late-stage stand. (Queens 26 Badaguish)

2003

FC sold 0.15 of land to the reindeer company and 0.04 ha for a private development. (FC records)

Plans to build a mountain bike centre in the Sluggan area of Glenmore Forest have been withdrawn because of the possible conflict with capercaillie that are found to be breeding within the area. (Glasgow Herald)

Orienteering map produced off Glenmore Lodge area (SOA)

Glenmore Forest Park is now part of the Cairngorm National Park (FC record)

The second phase of restoration was dealing with regenerating non-native in cleared areas. The Scottish Forest Alliance provided a source of funding for his work. (Brown &White 2003)

Regeneration survey work undertaken to determine pine and non-native tree presence. (FC records)

Allt Mhor trial opened linking Allt Mhor Car park to Coire Ciste (FC Records)

Two new toilet blocks built in campsite and 7 km of wiring installed for electric hook ups (A MacLeod Head Forester)

30th Anniversary of unveiling of Kompani Linge memorial stone (FC records)

2004

Non-native removal substantially completed at the south side of Loch Morlich. Although there is evidence of non-native species coming back although they are being removed by hand. Scots' Pine dominant species in the forest at 55%. (New Dawn for Native Woodland Restoration in FC Estate)

272 hectares of trees recorded as being older than 1900. (FC records)

New improved water supply via borehole for Glenmore has been opened. To date the glen had been relying on the intermittent supply from the Allt Choire Chondlaich. (Glasgow Herald)

New print of Glenmore Trail map (FC records)

Trail all ability orienteering map produced for yellow trail. (FE records)

Deer culling 40 Roe deer and 20 Red deer (FC records)

Queens 26 thinning experiment on late stage stand conversion is thinned after being marked by Forest Research. (Queens 26 Badaguish)

2005

Sold 0.14 ha of land to Albyn housing NH 975986 for affordable housing used to the shower block for the campsite. (FC records)

Lease to Cairngorm Mountain for shed area within Glenmore Forest (FE records)

Meall a Bhuachaille path upgrade and Utusis hut rebuilt (FC Records)

2006

Forest design plan for Glenmore comprehensively updated.

Leased campsite of 9.6ha to Forest Holidays (later became Camping in the Forest)

Sold 1.6ha of land to Badaguish Outdoor centre as well as Deed of Servitude to use access road (FC records)

A new stock map 1:17500 produced for Glenmore Forest (FC Records)

2007

Glenmore National Nature Reserve declared. (FC records)

Between Two Worlds art light installation event held in November in the Rvyoan area of Glenmore Forest Park created by sculptor Diane Maclean for Highland Year of Culture. (FC records)

New print of Glenmore Trail map (FC records Sept)

Glenmore Park Cycle and Ski trail leaflet printed (FC records March)

Interpretation Strategy developed for Glenmore Forest Park. (Rob Robinson Heritage consultant)

John Roy Stuart festival held in hayfield Glenmore 18th/19th August. (FC Records)

Deer density six per 100ha (FC Records)

2008

Dendrochronological sampling from Loch Morlich and the green lochan gave results that some trees went back to the mid 17thC. On the whole pine woodlands in the Northern Cairngorms are much younger, which could reflect the intense cutting history over the last few centuries. (Rob Wilson, Miles Rydual St Andrews University)

New print of Glenmore Trail map (FC records)

Regeneration survey work undertaken to determine pine and non-native tree presence. (FC records)

Deer density monitoring assessed density to be 6 deer/km (FC Records)

Action for Mountain Woodlands project commenced and interpretation on high –elevation woodlands and scrub were provided at the Glenmore Visitor Centre. (FC records)

Fergus Ewing MSP opens old logging way an off-load route linking Glenmore to Aviemore following roughly the route of the Canadians railway link from the First World War. It cost £270k. (FC records)

2009

Forestry Experiment (Queens 29) established in Compartment 3060 measuring stand structure in Native Pinewoods. (FC records)

Loch Morlich awarded a Rural Beach Award by Keep Scotland Beautiful this has been awarded every year to date for the management of the Loch and surrounding area (FE records)

2010

Glenmore wins the John Kennedy Memorial trophy (awarded at woodlands that deliver multi-purpose objectives) for a second time. In the judge's view" Glenmore was" an outstanding forest, where the scale of change to achieve objectives has been dramatic. The estate now combines biodiversity conservation, timber production and high-quality access in an impressive way. (FC records)

Native Pinewood managers meeting (May FE records)

Deer numbers estimated at 8 per 100ha with a cull of 20 red and 40 roe deer per annum.(FC records)

2011

Visitor Centre staff Aline Turnball, Allan MacDougall, Val Inness, Mhairi Maclaey (FC records)

2012

Visit of 92-year-old Joachim Ronneberg who laid a wreath at the Kompani Linge memorial stone at the Glenmore Visitor Centre. Joachim trained in Glenmore during the war and famously took part in the raid against the Norsk Hydro production plant in Vemork Norway in 1943. (FC records)

Archaeological survey of Canadian Timber Corps worksites in Glenmore. (Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services)

2013

Acquisition of 308 hectares of woodland from Glenfeshie estate so called Macalpine block. (At one time part of Rothiemurchas Estate) (FC records)

Forest shop within the Glenmore Visitor Centre was closed (FC records)

New print of Glenmore Trail map (FC records)

Glenmore Grouse Watch partnership formed between FC, RSPB and Cairngorm Mountain to provide a viewing area and interpretation. (FC records)

Café at Mor (VC café) terminated contract. (FC records)

2014

Purchase of 2,028 hectares of land from Rothiemurchas Estate. The total for the forest is now 5900 has.

Fire burnt about two hectares of forest within Caledonian reserve. (FC records 16/4/14)

FC sold 0.21 hectares of land to Scottish Water to help accommodate new sewage works for Glen.

Updating of interpretation facilities within the Visitor centre and closing of Forest shop. (FC records)

Cobbs takes over lease of Visitor Centre Café. (FC records)

2015

Glenmore Visitor Centre Green Tourism award Silver (Green tourism awards)

2016

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management award the Forestry Commission for their work with reconciling Capercaillie conservation with timber production within Glenmore Forest. (FC records)

Number two Forestry House sold to private owner so ended all ownership of the block of Forestry houses (FC records)

Norwegian war veterans visit Visitor Centre and memorial stone on the 11th of November (Kompani Linge folder VC)

Visitor Centre awarded four-star visitor attraction award (Fc records)

Storm damage to Allt Mhor trail and beach trail with washouts due to heavy rainfall in January. (FC Records)

2017

Commencement of felling of the Macalpine block which is major restructuring of the forest to encourage native regeneration.

Visitor Centre awarded Green Tourism award.

Refit of visitor Centre including new office accommodation in what used to be the interpretation area.

Storm damage to Allt Mhor trail and beach trail with washouts due to heavy rainfall in June. (FC Records)

A 10-year lease for 6.5ha granted to the Speyside Trust at Badaguish (FC records)

2018

Forest fire in Upper Rothiemurchas burnt, two hectares started by campfire. (FC records)

Glenmore Forest becomes part of Cairngorm Connect initiative. Cairngorms Connect is a partnership of land managers who have a 200-year vision to enhance habitats, species and ecological processes across 60,000ha of land within the national park. The partnership includes RSPB, Wildlands, SNH and Forestry Land Scotland. (FC records)

2019

Small fire in Macalpine plantation due to tree hitting 11kv powerline.

Glenmore forest now managed by Forestry Land Scotland under the Scottish Government as the Forestry Commission is split into nations.

Deer survey suggests that Glenmore has 7.1 deer/km.

Scarification undertaken to encourage natural regeneration within the Macalpine plantation. (all FC records)

2020

Experiment (Queens 32) being set up in MacAlpine restock area to look into restocking using direct seeding techniques. (Forest Research records)

Total forest area 5900 hectares of which 2620 hectares is classed at high forest. 374 hectares is due to the natural regeneration within the forest. (FLS records)

Utsi's bridge which was built in the 1979 by 50 apprentices from HMS Caledonia Roysth was replaced. (FLS records)

Reindeer lease extended for 10 years (FLS records)

2021

June fire in South Loch Morlich approx. 2has burnt.

Coupe three felling at MacAlpine block

Non-Native removal restarted by Harvesting coupes, chainsaw and hand tool work within Glenmore as part of Cairngorm Connect restoration project (FLS records)

2022

Forest Research establish an experiment(Queens 33) within the MacAlpine block assessing different alternatives to use of plastic tree shelters. (Forest Research)

FLS offer lease for camp site within Glenmore after buying out Camping in the Forest. The lease is taken over by Twinflowe.r

Coupe four felling at MacAlpine block. Scarification to aid regeneration undertaken in coupe three.

Land Management planned approved for next 10 years. This plan also includes the forest of Inshriach. the main aim of this plan is the start of a 50-year vision to transform the Forest into a native pinewood forest.

Queens 26 thinning experiment on late stage stand conversion is thinned after being marked by Forest Research. (Queens 26 Badaguish)

2023

Macapline restructuring felling complete.

European Sate Foresters Association visit Glenmore.

100 years of State Ownership of Glenmore.

Staff at Glenmore: Brian Duff, Kev Robertson., Roddy Macloed, David Macmillan, (Delivery) Maree Morrison, Laura Niccol (Visitor Services) Tom Cameron, Bobby Innes (Wildlife Management)

To be continued……

Forestry Commission/Forestry Land Scotland/Forestry and Land Scotland Forest Records

Year	Total Acres in program	New Planting	Re-Planting	No. of Plants thousands	Production
1923-24	199		199	133SP, 45JL/EL 8DF 145 NS/SS	
1924-25	246		246	122SP, 20JL/EL 12DF, 254SS/NS 3Beech	
1925-26	205		203+3 Bwds	348SP,5JL 15DF, 56SS/NS 3beech	
1926-27	274	274		345SP, 7JL/EL 178SS/NS	
1927-28	252	248 4Bwds		328SP,2Jl 10DF,378SS/NS	
1928-29	279	279		221SP,20DF 204SS/NS 2beech	
1929-30	266		266	157SP,240SS/NS 2 beech	
1931-32	280		280	233SP,205SS/NS	
1933	72		72	249SP,278SS/SS	
1934-48	0				
1949-50	108		108	Tree nos. stop on annual records	
1951	150	75	75		
1952	166	126	40		

1953	125	41	84		
1954	198	53	145		
1955	25		25		
1956	30		30		
1957	30		30		
1958	10	8	2		
1959	29	28	1		
1960	24	13	11		
1961	4		4		
1962	102	23	79		
1963	124	51	73		
1964	100	33	67		
1965	98	98			
1966	51	48	3		
1/10/67-31/3/69	0	0	0		4000 hoppus feet
1970	0				
1971	7has	7			
1972	21	21			1,000cubic meters
1973	21	21			
1974	24	24			1,000cubic meters
1975	5	5			1,000cubic meters
1976	0				1,000cubic meters
1977-80	0				1,000cubic meters
1981	0				2,000cubic metres

1982	0				1,000cubic meters
1983	17	17			1,000cubic meters
1984	0				4,000cubic metres
1989	1		1	1ha SP	
1990	21.5		21.5	21.5 SP	4,500 cubic metres
1991					Felled 10ha of non natives
1992					Felled 65ha of non natives
1993					Felled 42ha of non natives
1994					Felled 17ha of non natives
2001	1.0		1.0	1ha SS	
2002	12.5		12.5	8.5haSP 4ha MB	
2003	22		22	16ha SP 6ha MB	Felled 16ha
2008					Felled 31ha
2009					Felled 17ha
2010					Felled 4ha
2011					Felled 16ha
2012	9.5		9.5	2.5ha SP 7ha NS	Felled 22ha
2013					Felled 6ha

2014					Felled 28ha
2018					Felled 38ha
2019					Felled 50ha
2020					Felled 42 ha
2021				2.4k birch,1.k mix of willow,alder rowan	Felled 43 ha
2022				1.8k birch 0.5 aspen	Felled 68ha
2023				1.5k Birch 1.5k mix aspen.alder.oak,cherry	Felled 11ha

Forestry Commission/Enterprise/Land Scotland Foresters

J M Kennedy stayed at Badaguish	1929
Jackey Fraser (Head Forester) CD Robertson (under-forester)	1937-54 1937-60
William Morrison(Head Forester)	1948
DC Robertson Forester Grade 2 J Patience (under forester) A McInnes (under forester)	1952-60 1959 1960
D Grant A McInnes (assistant forester	1961-65 Forester 1964
John Chree	1968-71
Tony Hinde	1970
Alasdair Morrison (Head Forester)	1971-79
Bryce Reynard	1973-76
Ted Saunders	1976-85
Alastair Macleod	1979-1997
Willie Grant	1986-92
Roddy Macleod	1991-98
Ewen Reid	1998-2003
Neil McInnes	2003-08

From 2008 there was a beat system in operation and therefore no dedicated forester based in Glenmore.